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REMARKS

Claims 1, 18, 19 and 26 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions made in the action of December 8, 2003. The specification has been
5 amended to provide statements of the invention in accordance with the independent ones of the claims submitted in today's paper. Claims 1-39 remain in this application and stand for examination although claims 8-17, 22-25 and 27-39 stand
10 withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the comments made hereinafter.

Rejection of claim 18-21 for indefiniteness

The Examiner rejects claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing new matter.

15 Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion as to proposed amended wording in claims 18 and 19 and reconsideration is requested in view of today's amendments to those claims.

Rejection of claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 for indefiniteness

20 The Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner has suggested positively reciting the filtration system and the backwash inlet associated with the filtration system. Applicant has adopted this suggestion in
25 today's amendments to claims 1, 18, 19 and 26 and reconsideration is now requested in view of these amendments. Further, applicant notes the Examiner's further suggestions as to appropriate claim language defining the water apertures in claim 18 and, similarly, applicant has
30 adopted those suggestions in today's paper.

Applicant appreciates the suggestions of the

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Examiner in moving this case forward to allowable form and in the event the Examiner has further suggestions, applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned by telephone or by e-mail at the contacts indicated below in order to more quickly advance the application to allowance.

In view of the above, applicant submits that this case is now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and removal of the objections and rejections is requested and allowance of claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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